not necessarily to be constituted. As per this provision, the Panchayati Raj System has been implemented in all the States with installation of Panchayati Raj Institutions through timely held elections, except in Jharkhand, where elections are pending as the matter relating to reservation of posts is *sub-judice*. In Pondicherry, Panchayat elections are pending for want of information from the Office of the Registrar General of India pertaining to village panchayat-wise population, for notifying the same for the purpose of allotment and rotation of seats and offices in Panchayats by the State Election Commission. In respect of other States, it may be mentioned that while the provisions of 73rd (Amendment) Act,1992 do not apply in the States of Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland, the State of Jammu & Kashmir is yet to adopt the 73rd (Amendment) Act, 1992. NCT of Delhi is, at present, not having Panchayats. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been impressing upon the defaulting States from time to time to put in place elected Panchayati Raj Institutions.

District Panchayat Administrative Service

2780. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to create a new cadre of bureaucrats as direct Panchayat Administrative Service for effective implementation of the development programmes in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details of the duties and responsibilities of the proposed cadre and their role *vis-à-vis* Centre and States;

(c) whether any special role envisaged for the cadre in the naxalite infested States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) No, Sir. While the Union Government has no such proposal in mind, it was agreed in the First Round Table of Panchayati Raj Ministers held in Kolkata on 24-25 July, 2004 that: "With a view to building a cadre of officials and technocrats, specialized in the devolved functions of the Panchayati Raj Institutions, State Governments/UT Administrations may consider instituting a Panchayati Raj Administrative and Technical Service, with the State Government discontinuing further recruitment of staff to

State services for such devolved functions." As such no time limit has been or can be prescribed for States to establish District level Panchayati Raj Administrative and Technical Services.

Administrative and Financial Powers for Panchayati Raj Institutions

†2781. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to arm Panchayati Raj institutions with administrative and financial powers;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain State Governments have not taken appropriate measures for streamlining and empowering Panchayati Raj institutions; and

(c) if so, the details of Government's schemes to encourage rural development through Panchayati Raj institutions as was envisaged by Gandhiji?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) In order to evolve a national consensus on the measures to be taken to strengthen Panchayati Raj and ensure that Panchayati Raj Institutions function as institutions of self-government, as envisaged in Part IX of the Constitution, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj convened Seven Round Tables of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj between July, 2004 and December, 2004. At the Round Tables, about 150 points for action, covering 18 dimensions of Panchayati Raj, were formulated by consensus. *Inter alia,* these cover points of action pertaining to both the Centre and the States, relating to the effective devolution of functions, funds and functionaries to Panchayats, strengthening Gram Sabhas, planning and implementation by Panchayats, reservations, implementation of Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA), Panchayat election, and revenue generation by Panchayats.

A Council of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and a Committee of Chief Secretaries of States and State Panchayati Raj Secretaries under the Chairmanship of the Union Secretary (Panchayati Raj) have been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.